

**July 8, 2021**

**EMPIRE VILLAGE COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

The meeting was called to order at the Empire Township Hall at 7:00 p.m. by President Davis who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon a roll call, in attendance were Trustees Bacon, Chase, Barr, Dye, Rademacher and Palmer. Clerk Smith was also in attendance.

**CHANGES/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** – Bacon added Waterways Grant for Boat Ramp, Palmer added Community Volunteers, and Davis added Approval to fill temporary DPW assistant position.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - Motion by Bacon, support by Rademacher to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimous approval upon a voice vote. MOTION PASSED.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS** – None.

**COMMUNICATIONS** – Bacon read an email from Mary Sharry regarding Zoom and in-person council meetings.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS** – None.

**COUNCIL MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS** – Rademacher noted the minutes from the water committee in the packet. Items A, B, & C will be discussed tonight under New Business and the committee will have further discussion on other items. Chase reported that the Personnel Committee did meet and will continue their review of the Personnel Policy. There was discussion regarding the placement of the county speed measurement sign in areas around the village.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FORMAT** – Palmer requested the council review the format for information. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of a month-to-date column. There was consensus that the format be added to the regular meeting agenda for a vote.

**STEPS TO BEACH** – Palmer reported her information on step stringers. Davis reported that a load of gravel intended for the launch area was not needed and applied to the south end of the beach. It was noted that the issue of steps had been voted on less than 6 months ago and should be addressed per the Rules of Procedure.

**TEMPORARY DPW WORKER** - The individual hired in June has quit and the budgeted position is again open. Davis recommended Wayne Taghon be hired. **Motion by Bacon, supported by Barr to hire Wayne Taghon for this budgeted position. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ARPA GRANT** – **Motion by Dye, supported by Barr to approve submitting the Funding Election and Budget Certification form to MI Department of Treasury accepting the CLFRF funding. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Palmer, Barr, Dye, Davis, Rademacher, Chase, Bacon. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.** There was discussion of the types of projects the Village might

consider and which might qualify. There was consensus that members should review the information provided and the discussions should continue as the money must be used by 2024.

**WATER COMMITTEE MEETING ISSUES** – The recommendations regarding raising water rates for meter replacement and covering increasing costs were discussed. There was consensus that the rates need review, and a public hearing should be held to hear from residents. The need for a new well, removing dead ends and looping them, and the use of VFDs were also discussed.

**Motion by Bacon, support by Barr to authorized Davis to contact Gosling Czubak and ask them to attend a Council Work Session to discuss water system issues. ROLL CALL: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. MOTION PASSED.**

**WATERWAYS GRANT FOR BOAT RAMP** – Bacon reviewed a list of items that should be addressed for the Village to comply with requirements of this grant. Barr also mentioned that income from parking may need to be tracked. The construction plans for the project can be changed but must be approved by the Commission. There was consensus that further discussion is needed before the agreement is signed.

**COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS** – There was discussion of what projects might benefit the beach (painting the pump house, picking up trash). There was also discussion of how projects may need to be organized, supplied, and/or supervised.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Erin Teubner commented on community volunteers and Meg Walton commented on the financial reports and water meter replacement costs.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS** - Bacon commented on current requirements for meetings and the costs associated with holding concurrent Zoom and in-person meetings.

**ADJOURNMENT** at 8:40 p.m.

Derith Smith, Empire Village Clerk

*These minutes were approved at the July 27, 2021, Regular Council meeting.*